

College of the American Soldier (CAS)

What is it?

CAS is an enduring training and education partnership between the Army and participating colleges/universities. This partnership provides an optimum balance of training and education that accelerates Soldier professional development.

What has the Army done?

The Army has implemented three educational programs to enhance leader development. The first program is the Career NCO Degree Program which provides NCOs, at any point in their career, maximum credit for Army leadership schools based on completion of NCOPDS up to the Sergeant Majors Course (SMC). The program offers business and management-related degrees, up-front certification for credit to be applied to the degree, sixty-two percent of the ACE recommended credit for an associate degree and 95 percent of the ACE recommended credit for a bachelor degree for completing Initial Entry Training through the Resident SMC. Secondly, the Enlisted Education Program (EEP) provides first-term Soldiers an opportunity to achieve an associate degree during their first-term of enlistment with maximum award of credits for BCT, AIT/OSUT, SSD, and WLC. Thirdly, the Advanced Degree Program (ADP) provides candidates and graduates of SMC an opportunity to obtain a master's degree during their tenure at the USASMA.

What continuing efforts does the Army have planned for the future?

The Army will continue to expand civilian higher education opportunities as follows:

- (1) Prepare a TRADOC Tasking Order for Proponent Schools to: 1) submit their list of Programs of Instruction (POIs) to ACED 120 days prior to the scheduled ACE visit, and 2) provide their approved POIs to ACE 90 days prior to the scheduled visit.
- (2) Prepare a TRADOC Tasking Order for Proponent Schools to conduct the annual review of their credentials/certifications listed in WebCOOLBox System. The task order will request Proponent Schools update their listing of credentials/certifications eligible for award of promotion points for Soldiers competing for Sergeant and Staff Sergeant.

Why is this important to the Army?

Encouraging the pursuit of higher education contributes to the development of adaptive and innovative Soldiers and also provides recruitment and retention incentives.